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THE MEXICAN WAR.

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What true patriot can fail to weep over the present moral character of our country? "How is the gold become dim! how is the most fine gold changed!" "The daughter of my people has become cruel, like the ostriches in the wilderness." "For the sins of her prophets, and the iniquities of her priests, that have shed the blood of the just in the midst of her, they have wandered as blind men in the streets, they have polluted themselves with blood, so that men could not touch their garments." We may weep on Plymouth rock, and o'er the graves of the Pilgrims, for true glory has departed from their sons. The voices of prayer and praise that arose amidst the snow-clad oaks of Plymouth were two hundred years distant from the shouts of Buena Vista, and the groans of dying women in Vera Cruz. Once our new-born Republic was fair in the sight of all nations, save the one foul spot of Slavery, and that seemed disappearing. Our country's fame was sung in distant lands, and was the theme of the world's best orators. Our example swelled with hope the bosoms of the oppressed of

every land. The song of our praise has ceased. The oppressed looks no more to our example. He has sat down in despair.

Our country once had noble sons. Hancock the inflexible, Adams the modern Demosthenes, Washington the disinterested, with Franklin, Jefferson, and Henry, and many more, but they are dead. The younger Adams bore the spirit of the Fathers, and stood a living monument in a corrupt age, true to the last. For a quarter of a century corruption has characterized every Administration, and every Congress. When we take into consideration the low sordid selfishness of most of our great statesmen since 1828, their eagerness to crush millions to brutal degradation, their efforts to enlarge slavery, and make it perpetual, their disposition to murder thousands to enlarge the domain of slavery, plundering territory from a neighboring Republic ; northern men joining in all this wickedness for southern votes, as in case of Webster and Cass ; we have reason to fear that our nations doom is written, in the Divine Decrees.

For the following I am much indebted to Mr. Jay. 1819 James Long, with twenty-five lawless adventurers from Miss. entered Texas, proceeded to Nacogdoches, and attempted to establish a government in defiance of Spain. Moses Austin of Missouri in 1821 obtained leave to colonize three hundred families on the Brazos, under pretence that they were Catholics fleeing from persecution in the states. Edwards led a band of land thieves from the states in 1826 to Nacogdoches, and attempted to establish a government. In 1829 Mexico passed her final act of emancipation, which aroused the Americans in Texas. Accordingly the subject of purchasing Texas appeared, in a series of newspaper essays by Americanus,

alias, Col. Benton ; urging that Texas would make five, or six, or even seven slave states. Upshur, of Virginia, expressed a strong desire for the purchase, for a slave market. President Jackson was eager for the purchase, and in 1829, Mr. Poinsett was instructed to offer five millions of dollars for Texas. Shortly after this Samuel Houston, of Tennessee, disclosed to Robert Mayo M. D., and through him to President Jackson, that he was organizing an expedition with recruits from the United States, for the purpose of wresting Texas from Mexico. In 1832 the troubles in Mexico caused the troops to be withdrawn from Texas. In 1833 the American marauders in Texas, declared Texas separated from Coahuila, and an independent state. Coahuila and Texas had been united, and formed one state, therefore this was rebellion against Coahuila, and against Mexico. A small body of troops was sent to punish these rebels, but were overcome by the Americans, and driven out of Texas. Thus the war began, and Texan agents traversed the United States, addressing public meetings, enlisting troops, and dispatching military supplies to the Anglo-Texans. 1836. The insurgents issued their declaration of Independence, and fifteen days later adopted their constitution, establishing perpetual slavery. Slavery the great object for which they had strove for seventeen years was established.

1835. Our government appointed four Consuls to reside among the insurgent Texans, and in the same year added insult to insult, by proposing to purchase the whole country from the Sabine to the Rio Grande ; all of Santa Fe, and a large portion of California. Nothing can surpass the hypocrisy of our government at the time, pretending to enforce neutrality by issuing a circular to United States Attorneys, which was disregarded, and

designed to be disregarded by all. No one was punished, while men, munitions of war, and provisions were going from various parts of our country, by land and by sea, to the seat of war. Felix Houston wrote a letter dated Natchez, Mississippi, March 4th. 1836, and which was published, and went the rounds of newspapers at the time, stating that he was starting for Texas with five hundred men ; and making preparations for arms, ammunitions, uniforms, and so forth, at an expense of forty thousand dollars.

To save such men the expense of such outfits, the Governors of Louisiana, Mississippi, Tenessee, Kentucky, and Alabama were required to furnish General Gaines with men and means to protect our frontier, when it could need no possible protection, only to keep Americans from going into Texas, which we never did ; but shortly marched this whole host into Texas, in obedience to government, and encamping at Nacogdoches ; when many of his men deserted, and joined the revolutionists. While these frauds were being practiced by our Government, and while Generals Henderson, and Hunt, of Texas, were raising troops in North Carolina, General Dunlap was raising troops in Tennessee, and Col. Wilson in Kentucky, without hindrance ; our Government had the brazen effrontery to declare to Mexico, that she was doing all that could be done to maintain neutrality.

The Texan war being ended, our Slaveholding countrymen resolved to have Texas annexed to the United States, fixing its boundary at the Rio-Grande, and including part of New Mexico ; and if this led to war, they intended to have also Santa Fe and California. Mexico was not feared, she was weak, and distracted by revolutions, and our slaveholding countrymen had no conscience against devouring her at once ; but the north was

in the way ; the north had a little conscience left, and unless she could be deceived, and her unholy patriotism aroused, neither a treaty of annexation could be obtained, nor war declared. Northern blood, and northern treasure was wanted. A catalogue of vague grievances was got up, most of them without foundation, and others relating to private damages cognizable in civil courts, all of recent date, and nearly all unheard of by the Mexican government. Mr. Ellis, our Minister to Mexico, is instructed to demand his passports, if satisfactory answers are not given to all of these complaints in five weeks. Mr. Ellis took his passports, and on his return President Jackson asked Congress for a law authorizing reprisals, and the use of the navy by the Executive against Mexico ; and yet this same President Jackson, in a letter to the governor of Tennessee, dated fifteen days after the complaints were sent to Mr. Ellis ; denies that any serious injury has been committed by Mexico against our flag, our commerce, or our citizens. Should the murderer of one man sleep in infamy, while the murderer of thousands lives in Bronze ? An agreement was finally made to refer the claims to four commissioners, two to be appointed by each nation, and an umpire to be named by the King of Prussia. They were to meet in three months after the ratification of this treaty in the city of Washington, and to sit eighteen months. They commenced their session August 17, 1840.

Total amount of claims presented $11,850,578.
Of these sub. too late to be examined 3,336,837.

Referred to Umpire and undecided	8,513,741.
for want of time	928,627.
Amount of claims adjudicated	7,596,114.
Rejected by Commissioners and Umpire	5,568,975.
Allowed do do	2.026.286.

The commissioners had passed upon every case presented with proper vouchers, in nine months, and had found about three fourths spurious. After this, toward the close of their time, great efforts were made to swell the amount, and every unprincipled speculator was called upon to bring in his claim, and thus the three million three-hundred and thirty-six thousand eight hundred and thirty-seven dollars was raised. Claims were brought by the widows of old soldiers for services in the Mexican, and even in the old Spanish war, long ago as 1817.

A. O. de Santangelo, was a school master and printer in Mexico. In one of the revolutious he was obliged to flee, abandoning his school and press. He was naturalized in New York, and brought a claim before the commissioners of three-hundred and ninety-eight thousand six hundred and ninety dollars, and was allowed fifty thousand.

A claim was brought in for fifty-six dozen bottles of porter, which may have been worth two hundred dollars. The claim for the porter was one thousand six hundred and ninety, and iuterest thereon, for less than six years, six thousand five hundred and seventy, making eight thousand two hundred and sixty dollars. 1842 in March, President Tyler sent Waddy Thompson, of South-Carolina, to Mexico, as Minister. He concluded a treaty on the 20th Nov. 1843, which provided for a joint commission, to set in Mexico, with an Umpire to be named by the King of Belgium. Before these commissioners, all claims of each government against the other were to be brought. The United States Senate so mutilated this treaty, as to destroy its vitality, and then sent it back to Mexico, so changed, that it allowed no Mexican claim against the United States to be tried. The place was changed from Mexico to Washington. This wicked act of the Senate destroyed

the last hope of reconciliation. During the discussion on the appointment of Mr. Thompson, the celebrated Vandal speech of Mr. Wise was made, which developed the savage thirst for plunder, that had been long rising, and was now ready to break forth.

By the suggestion of Upshur, Secretary of the Navy, Commodore Jones was sent to the coast of California, to be ready on any pretext to take possession. On the 12th of October, 1842, he took forcible possession of Monterey, and issued proclamations, printed probably at Washington, or at Callao, in the Spanish tongue. This took place while we were professing to be at peace with Mexico, and presenting our claims against her. He had seized Monterey harbor under the mistaken idea, that it had been purchased by Great Britain, but this does not lessen his guilt.

And then again. During the pending annexation falsehoods went repeatedly the round of the political newspapers, at one time informing millions of readers, that Great Britain had purchased California for seven millions of dollars, at another, that British capitalists were about to loan money to Texas to purchase the freedom of her slaves, and to take for security, or pay, Texan lands.

1844. The prominent candidates of the two great parties, Clay and Van Buren, though not opposed to annexation on the ground of slavery extension, were nevertheless opposed to bringing on a war with Mexico, and this defeated the nomination of the one, and the election of the other. Polk's reckless zeal for annexation, gave him the votes of the south, and the tyranny of party discipline whipped the Democrats of the north into his support. The enormous appointing power of the President is one of the most dangerous features of our Government. The treaty of annexation was submitted to the Senate on the 22d of

April, 1844, and was rejected by thirty-five, to sixteen. Early in February, Mr. Polk, President elect, came to Washington, and was there a dispenser of favors during the discussion, on rejecting the treaty making power, and annexing Texas by joint resolution. During this debate a southern paper has the following language.

"We rejoice that those deserting democrats, who oppose this vital measure, which Mr. Polk so anxiously desires to be settled at this session, will have nothing to expect from his administration." Texas was annexed by concurrent resolution of Congress March 1st 1845. In October 1845, the American Consul in Mexico, inquired whether Mexico would receive an Envoy with powers to adjust all questions, and in two days received answer, that Mexico would receive a Commissioner to settle the present dispute, meaning the dispute about Texas annexation. President Polk, receiving this information, sent Mr. Slidell, not as Commissioner, but as Envoy, and Minister Plenipotentiary. Mr. Slidell hurried to Mexico, instructed to treat for the purchase of New Mexico and California, to give our claims and five millions for New Mexico, or our claims and twenty-five millions for both New Mexico and California. Mr. Slidell was not expected until the meeting of the Mexican Congress. He was therefore requested to delay his reception a few days, for that event. He wrote to the American Secretary at Washington, informing him that he could not be received at present, only as Commissioner to treat of Texas, but that the impression of the Mexicans was, that the United States Government were sincerely desirous to candidly settle all differences. The day after this letter was received, peremptory orders were sent to General Taylor, to march to the Rio Grande. Thus commenced one of the most unjust and murderous wars, that ever dis-

graced a civilized nation ; not excepting the dismemberment of Poland. After information of the march of General Taylor was received by Mr. Slidell, Paredes came into power, and our Government on hearing of this, instructed Mr. Slidell to offer his credentials to the new Government, giving as a reason for this advice, that on his return, energetic measures against Mexico would be recommended by the President, and that Congress might not approve of them, unless it could be shown that Mexico had refused to receive our Minister. This game was played, he offered them, and was refused, and then returned home.

The joint resolutions of annexation leave boundaries to be settled between the United States and other powers ; and how did we settle the boundaries of Maine and Oregon ; Texas had never held jurisdiction beyond the Neuces, while Mexico had held undisturbed jurisdiction on all of the left shore of the Rio Grande, until the arrival of General Taylor.

The orders to General Taylor, are among the most extraordinary ever given. He is ordered to march through a country occupied wholly by Mexicans, under Mexican magistracy, occupied by Mexican garrisons, which he is not to disturb at present, but if he sees any considerable numbers of soldiers crossing the river to the left shore, he is to fight them, and then, when his sword is once red, he may take Matamoras, march where he please, and kill whom he please, and all of this under the hypocritical pretence of guarding our frontier. The American soldiers became tired waiting for Mexican aggression. They blockaded the river, and cut off provisions from the city ; and General Taylor had the brutality to say in his letter, that this would compel them to withdraw, or fight. Soldiers dread inactivity, murder

is their pastime, and hence General Taylor, April 23d 1846, gave orders to Lieutenants Dobbins and Porter, to scout the country and capture, or destroy any military parties that they might find. Porter supprised a Mexican camp, drove away the men, and took possession of their horses. Porter, and one of his men were killed. Captain Thornton went out on the same business, and attacked a band of Mexicans, when a larger force coming upon him, sixteen were killed, and the rest taken. General Taylor, now announced to the Cabinet the attainment of the long desired result; "Hostilities may now be considered as commenced." President Polk now announces the war begun. Shortly after receiving intelligence of the war on the Rio Grande, Commodore Sloat, took possession of the shore of California, proclaimed himself Commander-in-chief, and Governor; pronounced California a part of the United States, and all of this without a word of instruction, or order since the war began. This shows how thoroughly the whole scheme was matured before Slidell was sent to Mexico.

The famous scientific expedition of Col. Fremont, proves to be a part of the grand scheme of plunder. On his return to the United States, Fremont presented certain pecuniary claims growing out of the conquest of California. Before a committee of the Senate his vouchers, and witnesses developed most startling facts. Lieutenant Gillespie was dispatched to Fremont by the Cabinet before hostilities commenced. He traveled from Vera Cruz, through Mexico to Mazatlan, in character of a merchant; conferred with commodore Sloat, and then proceeded to the Consul at Monterey, and then to Fremont, and delivered the contents of a letter, which he had committed to memory, and destroyed; not daring to carry it. He found Fremont, in Oregon on the 9th of

May, 1846. They immediately returned to California, received supplies from the Commodore, off San Francisco, and manufacturing alarms about the hostile intentions of General Castro, they proceeded to make a conquest of the country, before they had any knowledge of the declaration of war; and on the 5th of July, raised the standard of the Republic of California. The House of Representatives on Monday May 11th 1846, receiving a lengthy message from the President, went into committee of the whole, and soon arose reporting a bill according to the President's wishes. It was variously amended, and passed; the previous question being moved at every step; 174 to 14 on the final vote; declaring that war exists by act of Mexico; giving the President fifty thousand volunteers, and ten millions of dollars for the prosecution of the war. It passed the Senate by fifty to two. We are at a loss which most to abhor, Democrats or Whigs. The former had joined hands in one of the most wicked schemes of invasion, plunder, and murder; while the latter though denouncing war as unjust, nevertheless, through a most dastardly expediency, zealously aided in prosecuting it, and vied with the democrats for the glory.

Democrats in the face of the civil, literary, and religious light of the nineteenth century, in the face of reason, in defiance of all our instinctive sense of justice, in opposition to Revelation, in blasphemous defiance of God, have from the first justified the war; while Whigs have pronounced the war robbery and murder, and then seized with alacrity the news of the victories of Buena Vista and Vera Cruz, and lauded Taylor and Scott, to the skies, for robbing and murdering so splendidly; and to make a climax of inconsistency and sin, have made these robbers, and murderers candidates for the Presidency; and from the stump, and

from the press ; by the orator, and by the painter ; they have paraded before the people those scenes of robbery and murder to obtain votes. If there be any virtue left, any men to lift the voice against vice and corruption, canting infidels will cry "Church and State," and long-faced hypocrites will stalk into the pulpit, and desecrate the Sabbath, by crying "keep politics and religion apart." What was this war waged for ? For the enlargement of slavery. Yes, infamy will write it through coming ages, this war was for the enlargement of slavery. The Wilmot Proviso developed this. The cry against the Proviso was "if slavery is not admitted into territory taken from Mexico, all of this blood has been shed in vain, and the war may as well cease." This in substance was the language of Seddon, Dargan, Tibbatis, Calhoun, Bagby, Butler, Kaupman, Mangum and Thompson in Congress ; and of Governor's messages, and Legislature resolutions in the south. Mr. Cass, of Michigan, in a letter of February 19th 1847, said, "The Wilmot Proviso will not pass the Senate. It would be death to the war—death to the administration, and death to the Democratic party." This war then was to enlarge slavery, to defeat emancipation, to send the wail of despair through the conqured territory, to mingle the sweat and tears, and blood of the slave through the valley of the Rio Grande ; to open a market for Maryland, Virginia, and other breeding states, to tear the child from its mother, and send it to weep and bleed, to despair and die in a distant land. O tell it not in Vienna ! publish it not in Constantinople ! that this is the Republicanism, and the christianity of America.

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